

The Second Sunday of Great Lent-Evening

We gather today in prayer as part of God's Holy Church. We are on the Lenten journey to Pascha for the benefit of our souls. The Church is moving with certainty to Pascha.

Great Lent intends renewal of believers' souls. Care of the soul is of utmost importance. The soul is more valuable than the whole world. (Mt.16:26) Believers do well to care about the soul each day.

Parents have a responsibility in the home to ask themselves what values do they demonstrate and teach their children. Are mothers and fathers ethical in their everyday interaction at home and in the community?

Christian employers and employees have a responsibility for ethical behavior in the workplace. The message and lessons of the Gospel do not end at the church door. The Gospel is intended to be a part of everyday life

Believers have a hunger in the soul. The hunger in the soul yearns for peace, stability and nourishment found in Jesus Christ. Great Lent is the time to remove the barriers in life separating the believer from Christ.

The Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts and the Divine Liturgy affords believers the opportunities to unite with Christ by partaking of the Precious Body and Blood of Christ. The daily services of the Church offer nourishment and guidance.

Believers are expected to be active in pursuing growth in Jesus Christ. Believers commit to following Jesus Christ at Baptism. The commitment is intended for the remaining days of life.

The Church offers the environment for believers to grow and be nourished in Christ. Beginning anew in Christ is possible when believers journey on the narrow path to God's Kingdom (Mt.7:13-14)

The parish priest offers consistent guidance for believers to follow the narrow path to the Kingdom. Believers determine the degree of honoring the commitment to Christ as King and as God.

The whole person is dedicated to Christ at Holy Baptism. The whole person is to live according to the way of Christ. Life's challenges and temptations are not reasons to depart from following Christ.

Temptations in daily life are not equal to the joy of living in Christ. The reading from St. John's Gospel from this morning is clear. Jesus has come as the Good Shepherd. He has come to provide life, life more abundantly. (John 10:9-16)

Many challenges, temptations and crosses will normally arise from the time of earthly birth to earthly departure from this life. The Lord Jesus Christ is always constantly present for the believer.

We live in a world oversaturated with communications. Christ needs to remain clear, first and foremost in the believer's heart, mind and soul. Strong choices are necessary to ensure Jesus is first and foremost in the heart, mind and soul.

The Church offers abundant material for believers to use to grow in Jesus Christ. The Divine services offer a steady source of nourishment for the heart, mind and soul.

The Lenten journey is well structured with definitive messages to benefit believers. Believers do well to draw nourishment from the content of the Divine services in addition to appreciating their beauty.

A little extra effort goes a long way in stimulating growth in Jesus Christ. Each day a believer benefits by adding a simple prayer, doing a simple act of charity and refraining from an activity harmful to the soul.

Jesus is ever-present. Christians with eyes to see and ears to hear will verify Jesus' presence in daily life. Jesus is in each person in daily life. Each relationship is a relationship with Jesus Christ. (Mt.25:31-46)

Each person chooses the goals for his or her life. God's Kingdom and eternal life are the intended goals of believers established at Baptism. Great Lent is an opportunity to evaluate the personal effort put forth in seeking God's Kingdom.

St. Matthew's Gospel establishes God's Kingdom and His righteousness as the first priorities of life. (Mt. 6:33) Daily thoughts and activities need to be measured against the goal of seeking first God's Kingdom and His righteousness.

Becoming a Christian is a serious responsibility. The gift of life and the time of life are to be treated with utmost seriousness. Being conscious of the gift of life and time of life enables them to be appreciated and used wisely.

The time of life is not repeated. The time of life comes only once. Individuals are created in the image and likeness of God. (Gen.1:26-27) Each life and each moment of life are precious.

The Holy Apostle Paul told the Corinthians the body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit. Holy Apostle Paul said: "Ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (I Cor.6:19-20)

During the remainder of Great Lent, let us do all that we can to keep the Lord Jesus Christ and foremost in our hearts, minds and souls. Let us seek first the Kingdom of God and glorify God in our bodies and spirits.

The Second Sunday of Great Lent. St.Gregory Palamas. St.Cyril of Jerusalem.
March 18/31, 2024. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic